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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/374,681	09/19/2002	CRAIG H. BAKER	81762/210	4027

7590 11/03/2004
GUNNER G. LEINBERG, ESQ.
NIXON PEABODY LLP
CLINTON SQUARE
P.O. BOX 31051
ROCHESTER, NY 14603

EXAMINER

TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/374,681

Applicant(s)

BAKER ET AL.

Examiner

Larisa Z Tsukerman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendmend dated 10/13/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 10/13/2004 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Demissy (5468164).

Demissy discloses an electrical socket contact 1 for mating with a pin contact 8 comprising:

an electrically conductive body 11-13 having a pin contact engaging bore 13, the body comprising:

at least two pin contact arc receiving elements 3 (see Fig.1) which extend in to the bore 13, wherein the arc receiving elements 3 are spaced apart across the bore 13 a distance that is greater than a maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact; and

a plurality of spring contacts 11 spaced in and laterally offset from the arc receiving elements 3 along the bore (see Fig.4).

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Claims 1 - 5, 8 - 11 and 14 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ostapovitch (US 4,076,369).

Note: It is seen in Fig. 4 that inner spring contact portions 27 are laterally offset (inwardly) from arc receiving elements 28.

In regard to claims 1, 8 and 14, Ostapovitch discloses an electrical socket contact 10 (Fig. 4-6) and a method of making/mating the socket contact with a pin contact (indicated in a full outline 20, Fig. 6), comprising:

an electrically conductive body 11 having a pin contact engaging bore; and
the body 11 comprises two guide portions 28, 28 are read on applicant's at least two pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements extending into the bore, wherein the arc-shaped receiving elements are spaced apart across the bore and having a distance that is greater than a maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact (Figs. 4 and 6), and a plurality of spring contacts 25, 27 spaced in and laterally offset from the arc-shaped receiving elements along the bore.

In regard to claims 2, 9 and 15, Ostapovitch also discloses an aperture (Fig. 4) defined in the body between a contact 25, a side 17 and a pin contact arc-shaped receiving element 28.

In regard to claims 3 and 10, Ostapovitch also discloses the pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements 28 comprises stamped or curved inwardly extending projections (Fig. 4).

In regard to claims 4 and 11, Ostapovitch also discloses the socket contact 11 is formed a single sheet of material (Fig. 4).

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In regard to claim 5, Ostapovitch also discloses when the pin contact is inserted into the bore, the pin takes place in the sequence of: contact with the socket contact itself (at a front edge of the socket contact, Fig. 4), then the arc-shaped receiving elements 28, 28 and then a domed contact areas 27, 27 of the spring contacts.

All the elements recited in the claims are read in the reference, and the method claims are inherit of the product claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch (US 4,076,369) in view of Henricus op ten Berg (US 5,554,056).

Ostapovitch discloses the instant claimed invention as described above **except for** a latch spaced in from the spring contacts along the bore. Henlicus op ten Berg discloses a socket contact 2 (Fig. 1) comprises a latch 16 spaced in from spring contacts 30 along a bore defined between the spring contacts.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the socket contact of Ostapovitch to provide the latch as

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taught by Henricus op ten Berg in order to facilitate retaining the socket contact within a connector housing, as is well known in the art of the electrical connector.

Claims 7, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostapovitch in view of Borne et al. (France Patent No. 2 512 283).

Ostapovitch discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, arc receiving elements.

Borne et al. discloses a socket contact 14 (Fig. 6) comprises a closed loop, front body section having a plurality of bosses 26 (Fig.1) formed therein, the bosses are read on applicant's the arc receiving elements are fixed, non-cantilevered, arc receiving elements.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify a front portion of the socket contact with the pin contact arc-shaped receiving elements of Ostapovitch to provide the closed loop front body section having a plurality of bosses as taught by Borne et al. in order to provide more strength and reduce torsional stresses on the body of the socket contact.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT, 10/30/2004


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER